

**Sabotage groups' captured in Tunisia**

TUNIS (R) — Security forces have captured two groups of Muslim fundamentalists plotting acts of sabotage and seized explosives, a home-made bomb, guns and ammunition, the official TAP news agency said Saturday. The first group planned to use explosives stolen from a quarry on the outskirts of Tunis, TAP said. Some of the explosives were hidden in a lake. The second group was arrested in eastern Tunisia, some miles south of President Habib Bourguiba's summer palace in Monastir. A home-made bomb was hidden among cactus plants, TAP said. Hunting rifles, ammunition, explosives, molotov cocktails and what it called "subversive" publications inspired by Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's ideology were also found. All those arrested admitted they planned acts of sabotage, TAP said. It did not say how many were arrested or when. The report was the first official indication of attempts to foment unrest outside the Tunis area by what the government says is a pro-Khomeini network. TAP said members of the network had tried recently to cause trouble in the southeastern port of Gafsa. It gave no details.

Volume 12 Number 3499

AMMAN, SUNDAY JUNE 14, 1987, SHAWWAL 18, 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation  
جordan Times تأسى يوم ١٨ شوال ١٤٠٧ عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

**Cabinet approves accord with Iraq**

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers on Saturday approved an agreement of cooperation between Jordan and Iraq in the field of religious affairs. In a regular session held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the Cabinet also approved a new draft law on religions. The ministers also named Dr. Fayed Al Tarawneh, economic adviser at the Prime Ministry, as head of a delegation comprising of Mr. Eid Abu Karaki, secretary of the cabinet, and representatives of the ministry of planning and the Royal Scientific Society for talks with the Egyptian government on a national information centre.

**Jordan gets \$15m IDB loan**

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is to extend a \$15 million loan to help finance crude oil import for Jordan under an agreement signed here last week. This brings total IDB assistance to Jordan since September last year to \$38.4 million. IDB President Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali and Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Mohamed Rasoul Kilani, signed the loan agreement.

**Iraq reports air raids on Iranians**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq said its warplanes bombed Iranian army positions Saturday while Iranian gunners shelled a town north of the port-city of Basra. The military command said Iraqi jets flew 20 combat missions against Iranian positions all along the war front, inflicting casualties in men and destroying weapons and equipment. A communiqué broadcast on state-run television said Iranian long-range artillery shelled the border town of Uzair, about 105 kilometres north of Basra, a southern city. Some civilian property was hit but no casualties were reported. The communiqué also said the Iraqi navy drove back five Iranian boats trying to approach the Al Amiq oil terminal. Al Amiq is one of four major Iraqi oil-exporting terminals on a narrow coastal stretch of the northern corner of the Gulf, but it has been abandoned since the war with Iran began in 1980.

**Two killed in Italy said linked to Istanbul attack**

ISTANBUL (R) — Two Arabs captured in Italy have confessed they were part of a group which attacked a synagogue in Istanbul last September, the mass-circulation *Haberturk* newspaper reported Saturday. Twenty-one people were killed when two men sprayed the synagogue with machine-gun fire. The two gunmen were killed by their own hand-grenades. Huriyet said two Arabs detained on suspicion while travelling on a train from Tunis to Milan a month and a half ago, had now told Italian police that they were among a group of eight people which went to Istanbul to attack the synagogue. They said two of the group from the shadowy Abu Nidal Palestinian faction were chosen by lot to carry out the suicide mission and the rest left Turkey the day before the raid, the paper said.

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The Iraqi account put the Stark



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai sees off his Syrian counterpart Abdul Raouf Al Kasm upon his departure from Amman after a four-day visit on Saturday (Petra photo).

**Syrian premier ends 4-day visit**

AMMAN (J.T.) — Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasm left for home on Saturday at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan during which he was received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Dr. Kasm, who was accompanied on the visit by Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharif, Interior Minister Mohammad Ghabash and Transport Minister Yousef Al Ahmad, also held talks with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on issues related to Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in various fields and ways to strengthen bilateral ties. The talks Dr. Kasm held here also covered the latest developments in the Arab region, said the Jordan News Agency, Petra. On Friday, Mr. Rifai accompanied

Dr. Kasm and the delegation accompanying him were seen off from Amman airport by Mr. Rifai, Cabinet members, and senior government officials.

**Goulding arrives in Israel for talks on prospects for peace conference**

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — United Nations Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding arrived here on Saturday on a tour to discuss prospects for Middle East peace.

Mr. Goulding is expected to visit Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria as well as meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat at an undisclosed location during his current visit.

Mr. Goulding refused to answer reporters' questions at the airport, after his arrival, saying "I will not be talking to the press on this trip."

An Israeli official said the proposed peace conference would be "one of the main topics" on Mr. Goulding's agenda.

The proposed conference calls for the involvement of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, Soviet Union, China, France and Britain.

The Israeli foreign ministry said he would meet both Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for talks expected to centre on the conference.

Mr. Shamir and Mr. Peres, both political rivals in Israel's coalition government,

However, Mr. Clovis Mak-

soud, the Arab League's observer at the U.N. and a member of the Arab team that met Mr. Perez de Cuellar on Friday, said he found that lukewarm U.S. support for the conference idea had grown even cooler.

"We think there has been a sort of cooling off on the issue of the international conference in recent weeks," Mr. Makoud said.

Although the United States had dropped its previous opposition, "the lukewarm support that it had is becoming more lukewarm, and we think that is unfortunate," he said.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Jordanian foreign minister, Mr. Taher Al Masri, briefed Mr. Perez de Cuellar on Jordan's efforts towards convening the conference. Mr. Al Masri also reviewed with Mr. Perez de Cuellar the U.N. chief's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union and his continuing contacts with other members of the Security Council on the conference proposal, Petra said.

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**U.S. panel says Stark was hit outside Iraq-declared war zone**

WASHINGTON (R) — The Iraqi missile attack on the U.S. frigate Stark was almost certainly an accident, but the ship was not in a declared war zone in the Gulf as reported by Baghdad, a congressional report said Saturday.

The report faulted what it called an Iraqi tactic of firing on radar blips without checking them visually and inadequate monitoring of emergency radio frequencies on which the Stark broadcast warnings to the warplane that fired on it.

At the same time, it said the Stark should have warned the Iraqi Mirage F-1 jet earlier and should have turned so that all of its weapons could be brought into action more effectively in the event of a missile launch.

The report, by the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, said: "Because of Iraqi tactics, this was an accident waiting to happen."

The Stark was hit by two sea-skimming Exocet missiles fired by the Mirage fighter. The May 17 attack killed 37 American sailors.

Iraq has said it was the Stark's location that prompted the pilot to fire. Baghdad said the frigate was operating in a declared war zone where Iraq previously had attacked ships.

But the report, based on an investigation in the Gulf by committee staffers and on committee hearings, said there was no doubt about the location of Stark.

"The Iraqi attack was almost certainly inadvertent," it said, basing this conclusion on "political realities."

"All the coordinates fall within two miles of one another — and all place Stark at least 12 miles outside the Iranian exclusion zone," it said.

The Iraqi account put the Stark

10 miles inside the war zone, which was declared by Iran in the nearly seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war. Iraq considers any vessel inside the zone to be subject to attack.

The Iraqi explanation — placing Stark's location well within the Iranian war zone — is facetious at best," the congressional report said.

It said this could be a bid to suggest the Stark is "responsible in part for the fate that befell it and that full blame should not fall upon Iraq."

The Iraqi explanation does not improve confidence in Baghdad's publicly stated effort to be cooperative in the investigation," the report added.

Iran has said any non-Iranian vessels operating in its declared exclusion zone, which encompasses about half the Gulf's waters, are subject to attack by it.

Iraq thus assumes any vessels in that zone are helping the enemy and are fair game for Iraqi attack — basically the explanation it gave for what happened to the Stark.

Despite dissatisfaction with this explanation, the house committee, which did not visit Iraq, accepted Baghdad's statement that the attack was a case of mistaken identity.

The Iraqi attack was almost certainly inadvertent," it said, basing this conclusion on "political realities."

It also said that since the exposure of clandestine U.S. arms sales to Iran, "the Iraqi government had the Reagan administration in a difficult position."

"Baghdad was moving to ex-

**U.N. move on Gulf conflict expected next month**

UNITED NATIONS (R) — An Arab League committee on the Iran-Iraq war conferred on Friday with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar during which various Middle East issues, including the Iran-Iraq war and the proposed peace conference, were discussed.

Although the United States had dropped its previous opposition, "the lukewarm support that it had is becoming more lukewarm, and we think that is unfortunate," he said.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Jordanian foreign minister, Mr. Taher Al Masri, briefed Mr. Perez de Cuellar on Jordan's efforts towards convening the conference. Mr. Al Masri also reviewed with Mr. Perez de Cuellar the U.N. chief's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union and his continuing contacts with other members of the Security Council on the conference proposal, Petra said.

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# Some American hostages, Waite reportedly transferred to Iran

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Some of the American hostages kidnapped in Lebanon have been transferred to Iran, where a powerful faction wants them put on trial, the weekly Lebanese magazine Ash Shiraa reported Saturday.

Terry Waite, the Anglican church envoy who has been missing in Lebanon since Jan. 20, was also transferred to Iran on two occasions for talks with Iranian officials, the semi-official daily newspaper Al Ittihad of Abu Dhabi reported at the same time.

Mr. Waite had been close to freedom but contacts with him were broken off, Al Ittihad added, quoting unnamed British sources for its information. It did not clarify whether Mr. Waite was still in Iran, or whether he had been taken back to Lebanon.

Mr. Waite's disappearance has been a mystery as no group has so far claimed responsibility for abducting him.

It was not clear whether there was any link between the report of Mr. Waite's transfer and the Ash Shiraa report that an Iranian faction wants American hostages also transferred to Iran put on trial.

Ash Shiraa said the leader of the faction, Sheikh Hussein Ali Montazeri, "demands that the American hostages in particular be brought to trial, especially since some of them have already been taken to Iran." Montazeri is the designated successor of Iran's supreme ruler, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The American hostages already in Iran "are being subjected to thorough interrogations by the Iranian intelligence under the direct supervision of Minister of Security and Intelligence Sheikh Mohammad Mohammadi Rey Shahri," the magazine said. Rey Shahri's official title is minister of information.

It was Ash Shiraa that first reported the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran in an effort to free American hostages last November.

The magazine attributed its latest information on the hostages to unnamed "sources close to Montazeri's office" in Iran's holy city of Qom.

The magazine indicated that Montazeri and his followers reject the view of a top-level five-man committee, formed by Khomeini, which wants to release the hostages in exchange for U.S.-made weapons.

Ash Shiraa reported last week that the special committee believed that "a settlement to the hostages' issue can be achieved if the United States delivered to Iran weapons that had been purchased and paid for by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi."

The late shah was toppled by Khomeini's Islamic Revolution in 1979.

## U.S., Saudis discuss expanded AWACS patrol

**"ASHINGTON (Agencies)** — The United States has said it is discussing with Saudi Arabia a plan for expanded patrol of the Gulf by AWACS surveillance aircraft.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said the plan involved extending the patrols "in a more southerly area of the Gulf."

"This is an item we're discussing with the Saudis but no decisions have been made," she said.

The United States has "every intention of maintaining our strong political, economic and security ties with the Saudis," despite the decision to "temporarily" withdraw an administration proposal to sell Saudi Arabia 1,600 Maverick missiles, Ms. Oakley said.

President Reagan announced Thursday he was shelving the sale because of strong congressional opposition.

Several congressional opponents said they opposed the sale because of concern over a U.S. plan to escort Kuwaiti oil tankers flying U.S. flags in the Gulf and because of Saudi Arabia's lack of cooperation in intercepting the Iraqi plane that fired missiles at the U.S. frigate Stark last month.

Ms. Oakley said the administration planned to go "forward

with our policies in the Gulf region," despite an action precipitated by Congress which is "the wrong signal to send."

Published reports have said the U.S. Defense Department hopes to expand AWACS (airborne warning and control system) patrols over the entire length of the Gulf before U.S. warships start escorting the Kuwaiti oil tankers next month.

Any such expanded operation would require Saudi approval because the planes are based in Saudi Arabia and would fly over other Arab countries along the Gulf coast opposite Iran.

The Defense Department apparently hopes to monitor air and sea traffic across the entire length of the Gulf to head off any attacks by Iran, which has threatened to continue attacks on shipping bound for Kuwait.

Iran has air and naval bases as well as missile sites near the Strait of Hormuz and has occupied part of the Fao peninsula at the opposite end of the Gulf.

President spokesman Martin Shultz said in West Berlin Friday that Mr. Reagan would resubmit to Congress the missile sale for Saudi Arabia but did not say when.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State George Shultz said Friday the

U.S. has received no response from Saudi Arabia to its offer to buy

the 47-year-old Hashemi died on July 21, three months before

he was due to be released.

Hashemi's relatives suspect foul play.

The magazine had added that the committee consisted of Iranian President Ali Khamenei, Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, Khomeini's son, Ahmad, Revolutionary Guards Commander Mohsen Reda, and Guards Minister Rafiq-Doust.

Ash Shiraa had reported last week that Iran also wanted the United States to release Iranian assets frozen in American banks.

The United States has already paid Iran \$451 million of an estimated \$3.6 billion in frozen assets, as ordered by a U.S.-Iranian tribunal in The Hague. The transfer of the funds was completed last month.

"They (the Iranian government) want money and arms. In no case can their Lebanese jailers take the decision to free them. Only Iran can do that," Sabra said.

Mr. Waite disappeared in Beirut whilst on a mission to negotiate with a pro-Iranian group holding two Americans in interest.

Al Ittihad said Mr. Waite was held to Tehran for talks with Mr. Rafsanjani while "intensive contacts" were under way between the Anglican Church and Iran for the release of British hostages held in Lebanon.

Al Ittihad said sources close to Mr. Waite's family said following his meetings with Mr. Rafsanjani the Iranian leader "made positive steps," toward freeing the Anglican envoy. But Mr. Rafsanjani suddenly ended his contacts before final agreement could be reached, the paper added.

Al Ittihad gave no indication whether the reported progress

toward Mr. Waite's release had been blocked by the hard-line Iranian faction that Ash Shiraa says wants the American hostages tried.

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Al Ittihad gave no indication whether the reported progress

toward Mr. Waite's release had been blocked by the hard-line Iranian faction that Ash Shiraa says wants the American hostages tried.

The magazine had added that the committee consisted of Iranian President Ali Khamenei, Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, Khomeini's son, Ahmad, Revolutionary Guards Commander Mohsen Reda, and Guards Minister Rafiq-Doust.

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## King voices appreciation for performance of RJ

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday voiced his appreciation of the role of the Royal Jordanian (RJ) airline in linking Jordan with sister Arab states and friendly nations, and urged the airline's staff to double their efforts for serving their country and countrymen.

The King was speaking during a visit to the Royal Jordanian's headquarters in Amman during which he met with the airline's

president, Ali Ghandour, who presented a briefing to the King on the airline's situation in general and its programmes in the future.

Mr. Ghandour spoke about the airline's operations, programmes for modernising the airline's fleet and expansion of Royal Jordanian air routes as well as its endeavours to stimulate tourism to Jordan.

## Assad briefs U.S. group on education system

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Higher Education Nasserddine Al Assad met here Saturday with Mr. David Kennedy, U.S. ambassador at large, and a delegation of teachers from American universities, including the president of Brigham Young University in Utah.

They reviewed education in

Jordan and the role universities and community colleges play in developing education in the Kingdom.

Dr. Assad also spoke about the role played by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Bait Foundation) and its objectives and programmes.

## Jordan, Iraq and Egypt discuss joint company

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, Iraq and Egypt Saturday opened meetings in Amman to discuss steps for the establishment of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC) to operate a land-sea route linking the three countries through the port city of Aqaba.

Under secretaries of the ministries of transport in Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, Mu'taz Al Bilbeisi, Ghassan Radwan and Mohammad Barqouqi accompanied by senior aides are conducting the talks at the Ministry of Transport in Amman.

The meeting will be devoted to steps to be taken for bringing the project into being and the commencement of actual work, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

The projected company will undertake maritime transport operations, carrying passengers and goods from Nuweibeh in Sinai to Aqaba in Jordan and vice versa, thus linking the Arab orient with the Northern African Arab states. Mr. Bilbeisi said.

Following the initial meeting Saturday, the Egyptian delegate Mr. Barqouqi said that the pro-

jected company is bound to bolster inter-Arab cooperation and boost trade and tourism in the region. The projected company, which will have a \$7 million capital, will commence operations in six months time and start transporting goods and passengers between Nuweibeh and Aqaba. Mr. Barqouqi said.

He said that the company will have its headquarters in Amman and will operate under the supervision of the three countries.

At present, Egypt and Jordan have their own national shipping lines operating between Aqaba and Nuweibeh. But, Mr. Bilbeisi said that once the tripartite company has been set up a new joint company comprising officials from the three countries will then be set up.

Since the inauguration of the Nuweibeh-Aqaba land-sea route in April 1985, a total of one million passengers have crossed between the two ports and more than 39,000 vehicles have been ferried between Aqaba and Nuweibeh.

## 8 education directors transferred to other posts

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Thowqan Al Hindawi has transferred eight directors of education from their present posts appointing three of them as cultural attachés at Jordan's embassies in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Other appointments include

Dr. Farah Rabadi who, named director of the minister's office; Dr. Izzat Jaradat, director of development and studies; Mr. Tayseer Rashid Arafa, director of Education in Zarqa; Mr. Suleiman Sala, director of education in Ajloun, and Mr. Ahmad Aqel, director of financial auditor at the ministry.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Embassy marks Queen Elizabeth's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British ambassador to Jordan, Mr. John Coles, Saturday hosted a reception at his residence on the occasion of the birthday of Queen Elizabeth of Britain. It was attended by senior officials, members of the diplomatic community and invited guests.

### University to graduate students

AMMAN (Petra) — The 22nd batch of the University of Jordan students will be graduated today Sunday under the Royal patronage at the Al Hussein Sports City Stadium. The graduation is part of the university's celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of its establishment. This batch, comprising 2,650 graduates, includes 2,252 holders of B.A. degree, 157 holders of M.A. degree, 43 holders of diplomas, 3 holders of Ph.D., and 195 holders of diploma in vocational specialisations. The first batch of holders of Ph.D. in Arabic will be graduated.

### 1,000 fruit trees burn down

JERASH (J.T.) — More than 1,000 fruit trees were burnt in a fire that spread across 2,000 dunums of land in Jerash district on Friday. Civil defence officials said that the fire spread quickly after a farmer had set fire to dry grass and thorns in his farm. Olive, almond, lemon, and apple trees were among those burnt in the orchard, according to the Civil Defence Department authorities, who rushed fire fighters to the area from Irbid, Mafraq and Jerash. A large number of local inhabitants also took part in the fire fighting operations.

### Arab ports group to meet in Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Arab Sea Ports will open a meeting in the Syrian city of Latakia on Sunday to discuss, among other subjects, the establishment of an Arab regional training centre in the management of ports, according to Mr. Eid Al Fayez, director general of the Jordanian Ports Corporation. Mr. Fayez was speaking before leaving for Syria to chair the meeting. He said that delegates will discuss the projected training centre which will be located in Aqaba and will also decide on the setting up of maritime industries.

### CAA to train in U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will be taking part in training course for those working with aircraft equipment, which will be held in the U.S. during the second half of this month. This is under an agreement signed between Jordan and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration which is organising the course.

Mr. Ghandour spoke about the airline's operations, programmes for modernising the airline's fleet and expansion of Royal Jordanian air routes as well as its endeavours to stimulate tourism to Jordan.

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Jordan and Syria show the way

THE just-concluded visit to Jordan of Syrian Premier Abdal Raouf Al Kasm and the high-level delegation accompanying him has already been marked by successes on more than one front. First and foremost the visit came at a time when inter-Arab relations are in dire need of consolidation and improvement. And, it came in the wake of the official visit by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to Damascus several weeks ago. The frequency of the exchange of visits between Amman and Damascus is in itself a positive sign and proof that the bridges constructed between the two capitals by His Majesty King Hussein and President Hafez Al Assad during their state visits to each other's capital over the past few years are strong and durable.

Important as the various subjects reviewed by the two sides during the visit of Dr. Kasm to Amman are, an agreement on the subject of the projected Maqaren Dam could very well become a milestone in Syrian-Jordanian relations. It is most gratifying to note that Prime Minister Rifai and his Syrian counterpart had devoted a good part of their time on this most vital subject and endeavour. Should the on-going talks between Syria and Jordan be crowned by a successful resolution of this giant national project, it will go down in the annals of contemporary Arab history as an epitome of sound, action-oriented decisions. The waters of the great Yarmouk River need to be put at the disposal of the general Arab world and there is no better way to do so than for Jordan and Syria to jointly agree on the ways and means to exploit this vital source of Arab waters for the mutual interest and security of Jordan and Syria. Needless to add, a Syrian-Jordanian agreement on the Maqaren Dam which is projected to provide a reservoir for some 486 million cubic metres of water would be in harmony with the letter and spirit of the Charter of Arab League and the objectives of the Arab Economic Union. Water security is even more important than energy security especially for the Arab World. Viewed from this perspective, securing water sources for the Arab countries is of strategic significance. Nothing would please us more, therefore, than to see the seal of consent by both countries on the Yarmouk-Maqaren Dam deal as soon as possible.

This is not to belittle the other areas of possible cooperation between the two countries which could include the fields of trade, agriculture, industry, electricity or communication and tourism — not to mention the already functioning joint-ventures such as the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company, the Industrial Free Zone and the Syrian-Jordanian Bank. Tourism between the two countries is already developing at a fast pace. In this context we would like to recall the positive steps which were taken in the seventies to functionalise and modernise the border crossings between the two countries. We would very much like to see the Syrian-Jordanian border crossing be the envy of the rest of the Arab World and an example to emulate. Syria and Jordan have now another opportunity to make the Arabs proud of being Arabs when crossing the borders of each other's countries. Security and custom concerns and considerations need not be sacrificed by efficient and well functioning border crossings. On the contrary, the two objectives can be easily reconciled with one another for the betterment of each concern.

The outcome of the Syrian premier's visit is yet another landmark in Jordan's quest to close Arab ranks and restore Arab solidarity, which is of paramount importance to the Arab World at this critical juncture in time. Jordan and Syria are showing the way to the rest of the Arab family and it is our hope that other Arab states, from the maghreb to the naseer, will rise above their differences and quarrels in the service of the Arab people everywhere.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Conflicting signals, interests

THE Soviet Union, renewed through Pravda newspaper, its readiness to contribute towards ending the Gulf war under the umbrella of the United Nations Security Council. In contrast, one cannot but note that the United States is intent on exploiting the conflict for its own purpose and interest. The United States wants to use this war as a pawn for spreading its hegemony and domination over the Gulf region. Now that Washington's efforts to enlist the collaboration of the European countries to take part in this adventure has failed, it has adopted a new course of action, designed to impose America's domination on the skies, declaring that the Gulf region will be under the 'embrace' of the AWACS planes. Needless to say that foreign hegemony on the Gulf of any source cannot and will not put an end to the conflict, but would rather destabilise the whole region and undermine its peace and security. The Soviet Union has warned against this strategy, but the United States is going ahead with plans to achieve its own goals and objectives. America's attempts to impose air hegemony on the Gulf region is a new adventure that gives cause to concern for the peoples of the Gulf and to the world at large.

### Al Dustour: The weak vs. the strong

ONCE again the Reagan administration succumbs to the will of the Zionist lobby and Congress, and cancels an arms deal with Saudi Arabia. The administration capitulated to Congress and withdrew a proposed sale of advanced Maverick missiles worth \$360 million needed for Saudi Arabia's defence. Although President Reagan said that he would renew a request to Congress for selling the missiles, the cancellation of the deal dealt a heavy blow to what has remained of U.S. credibility in the Arab World. The cancellation, coinciding with American naval presence in the Gulf, together form a negative development that does not augur well for the United States which is coming under constant criticism by the Arab states for its arms deals with Iran, a country that has been launching war on the Arab Nation and endangering the freedom of navigation in the Gulf zone. We view Reagan's cancellation of the arms deal with Saudi Arabia as another indicator of the deteriorating prestige of the United States world-wide, and also as a sign of lack of wisdom on the part of the U.S. policy makers with regard to America's interests overseas.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Sound joint venture

THE proposed Maqaren Dam near the Syrian border is one of the most important projects for exploiting natural resources for benefiting the people of Syria and Jordan. This project aims at providing sufficient water for irrigation and for generating electric power, and so paving the way for further prosperity. The Maqaren Dam would be one of the most successful joint ventures executed by Jordan and Syria in the course of joint endeavours for serving the future generation. By building the dam and exploiting the water in the Yarmouk River we abort Israel's intentions and ambitions which aim at seizing water resources within the Arab region and expanding Israel's borders from the Nile to the Euphrates. Israel has been dreaming of achieving its goals, and the water in the rivers found in the Arab countries near its borders constitute a tool enabling the Zionists to achieve their goals.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Electricity: How much is too much?

ACCORDING to Lenin's basic definition of socialism the electrification of the countryside is one of the three achievements that socialism aims at.

Using this measure, we might conclude that Jordan became more Socialist than the Soviet Union, making electricity available to 96 per cent of the rural population, and 98.5 per cent of the total population of the Kingdom. It is doubtful that over 90 per cent of the Siberian population have electricity.

In no way does this mean that the Soviet government is not interested in improving the standards of living in the countryside, or is unable to make the current available to each village irrespective of how small and remote it may be. It only means that the Soviet government realises that economic resources are limited, and accordingly should be allocated for various purposes in accordance with a well established scale of priorities.

It might constitute waste of resources to provide a remote village with electricity if there still were villages that were deprived of schools, clinics, libraries, streets, roads, or other means of communication. In that case, the cost of extending the electric network, transformer and maintenance may be better utilised to provide other services more vital to the people, and not yet provided because of the lack of sufficient funds.

No one in his mind would hate to see every Jordanian village electrified, even when no more than five families subscribe.

Electricity is one of the basic entitlements of every citizen in a modern country. But, the basic entitlements are many, and the means to get them are not unlimited. Therefore some system of priorities should be employed, to start with the absolute necessities and advance towards conveniences.

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announced last week that during the first five months of this year it was able to extend power to 65 villages with inhabitants totalling 24,000 all over the country. This is certainly an engineering achievement. The question however is whether that was justified from an economic point of view or not especially when the JEA will soon become the biggest Jordanian customer to foreign loans. This means that JEA expansion is not based on its own revenues, but rather on loans in foreign currencies.

In fact JEA has invested over JD 200 million of capital expenditure in the last six years, and borrowed JD 176 million during the same period, of which JD 140 million is still outstanding. The cost of servicing this debt is at least 15 per cent annually, and reached JD 14 million in 1986. This practice is bound to create pressure on the country's reserves in foreign exchange, that is badly needed for other more economic and social projects far more important than the electrification of remote and scattered small settlements.

During 1986 it was also announced that power had been

extended to 82 villages with a total population of 31,000, an average of 50 families or ten subscribers in each village. JEA did not mention the financial cost of this achievement in the form of initial capital outlays and future running costs.

We are definitely not against connecting the smallest cottage on the highest mountain or the smallest tent in the desert with electricity, provided that was done in accordance to social and economic priorities. It is also important that benefits be weighed against the costs of foreign indebtedness. Under no condition should we ignore that illiteracy still blinds 28 per cent of our people, and that is an evil worse than the absence of electricity.

Four years ago the prime minister announced a year "devoted for the provision of water and electricity." Apparently the year of electricity was extended indefinitely. We now need a year to check the electric expansion, including exporting energy to neighbouring countries on account, merely to justify the purchase and installation of more thermal generators, and to satisfy the aspirations of otherwise highly qualified electric engineers thirsty to perform and excel.

Finally, we should be proud of the technical achievements of our excellent team of engineers at the JEA. Nevertheless, we need to stop them somewhere in order to re-think the feasibility of their runaway expansion, by doing some social and financial cost-benefit analysis.

## Tough U.S. Gulf stance seen as bid to erase Iran arms stain

By Christopher Hanson  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration has justified its naval buildup in the Gulf as a shield for free navigation, but private Middle East experts see another motive — restoring U.S. credibility lost by the Iran arms scandal.

Critics say the strategy is dangerous and may backfire.

U.S. warships will soon begin escorting 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Gulf, where Iran and Iraq are locked in a bitter war which has been going on for almost seven years.

These ships will fly U.S. flags and carry American captains. Kuwait, whose ships have been hit by Iran, supports Iraq.

Top U.S. officials have threatened Iran with a possible preemptive strike if it deploys Silkworm anti-ship missiles at the mouth of the Gulf, an artery for world oil.

"This is all a backlash to the Iran affair," former Carter administration Middle East adviser Robert Hunter told Reuters.

He was referring to the scandal, now under congressional investigation, involving secret White House arms sales to Iran in a bid to free U.S. hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

"The (administration) is now at great pains to reassure the Arabs that it is not involved with Iran and that has led to a tilt toward Iraq," Hunter said.

The New York Times said in an editorial Wednesday Reagan's naval stance appeared aimed at reviving an image of U.S. strength that was shattered when he sold arms to the country that had held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days in 1979-1981.

"The suspicion lingers that the rush to act tough in the Gulf springs from a desire to expunge

the folly of sending arms to Iran for hostages, rather than from a coherent plan," the newspaper said.

Reagan's naval diplomacy has rung alarm bells in the U.S. Congress, where leading members say he has added another dangerous dimension to a stumbling Middle East policy.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, said Kuwait has asked Moscow to help protect its shipping after the Iran arms sales came to light. Only then did Washington agree to protect the 11 tankers in a bid to restore its influence and counter Moscow's.

"(This shows) how bad a mess you can get into when you carry out that kind of incoherent policy," he said during televised hearings on the Iran affair.

Reagan has said his policy is aimed at protecting freedom of navigation. He vowed Americans would never again suffer the surge in petrol prices and long gas station waits that beset them in the 1970s.

Independent Middle East analysts said Reagan was exaggerating the problem because the threat to Gulf navigation was no greater today than it was six months or a year ago.

"The scene hasn't really changed to warrant anything major," said Shireen Hunter, a Gulf war specialist at Washington's Centre for International and Strategic Studies (CIS). She said only about one percent of ships plying the Gulf had been hit and that, due to a glut in world oil, the tanker war had had virtually no impact on petroleum prices.

This was one reason why Western Europe and Japan, which rely much more heavily on Gulf oil than the United States, had been unenthusiastic about joint patrols of the area.

Reagan had called for some sort of allied cooperation in protecting the 11 Kuwaiti vessels but had to settle at this week's Venice economic summit for a general statement supporting freedom of navigation.

If Washington were drawn into an armed conflict with Iran, that would severely disrupt tanker traffic and bring on the very gas lines Reagan vowed to prevent. Shireen Hunter said.

Reagan had focused on Iraq as a threat to Gulf shipping, but Iran had been less of a threat than Iraq, which initiated attacks on tankers in 1983 and had hit some 70 per cent of more than 300 ships damaged, according to Middle East analysts.

Iran depended on the Gulf as a lifeline and had no interest in closing it, they said.

The analysts said Iraq's strategy was to draw the superpowers into the conflict.

An Iraqi jet launched a missile attack on the U.S. frigate Stark last month that killed 37 U.S. sailors. Iraq said the attack was accidental and Washington accepted this.

But Robert Hunter, the former Carter administration official, said the attack, though it may have been inadvertent, had advanced an overall Iraqi strategy of drawing in the superpowers. The Stark incident had bolstered U.S. resolve to pursue the flag venture and naval patrols.

The analysts said that if Washington were drawn into armed conflict with Iran, the result could be disastrous for the West.

Tehran would be tempted to turn to Moscow for aid, which could ultimately put Iran firmly in the Soviet orbit.

"In playing for small potatoes with Kuwait, we risk losing the big enchilada, Iran," Robert Hunter said.

## Roh inherits Chun's mantle, also his problems of legitimacy

By Roger Crabb  
Reuter

SEOUL — Roh Tae-Woo, confirmed on June 10 as the South Korean government's candidate to succeed President Chun Doo Hwan, looks like inheriting sweeping powers but also a nagging problem of legitimacy.

Roh, like Chun a former general, was adopted by the ruling Democratic Justice Party as its candidate for presidential elections due in December.

With the opposition parties threatening to boycott the poll, saying the indirect electoral-college system is loaded in favour of the U.S. aid of nations violating the 1977 U.N. arms embargo, from intervening in the process. There was some public protest. "The economic exigencies of Israel pale alongside the repression and exploitation under which the black majority in South Africa exists," said an editorial in the Los Angeles Times. But Israel was spared a protracted public debate.

Despite annual U.N. resolutions condemning its military collaboration with South Africa, Israel grew less circumspect. In addition to the easily concealed technological transfers for the components and subsystems which constitute the bulk of its arms trade with Pretoria — radar, electronics for tank sights, and help in the design of Pretoria's new Alpha helicopter — are the most recently reported of these — Israel began providing large, identifiable weapons systems to the white government.

Israelis officials were quoted complaining that the abrupt cancellation of contracts with South Africa would result in losses of hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs in the state-owned arms industry. It was reported that many Israeli scientists survived on research contracts from South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Above all, the value of the arms trade with the minority regime was placed at the astronomical level of \$400-\$800 million a year, much higher than previous estimates.

On 18 March, spurred by U.S. Jewish leaders who arrived in Israel in high dudgeon over the Pollard affair, the Israeli inner cabinet, after bitter wrangling, announced that Israel would sign no new military contracts with South Africa, but would honour existing ones. The cabinet had not demurred over the rectitude of providing weapons to Pretoria, nor over the wisdom of tying the Star of David to the setting sun of the apartheid regime (Israel's



security of Seoul and the presidency.

In 1981, Chun promoted him to lieutenant-general when he took over the defence security command. Later that year Roh resigned and began his meteoric rise through the Seoul hierarchy.

He served first as minister in charge of security and foreign affairs, then was sports minister, interior minister, head of the Seoul Olympic organising committee and, in 1985, became chairman of the Democratic Justice Party. Chun is party president.

In 1986, after weeks of opposition street demonstrations demanding free elections, Chun reversed his stance and agreed to allow constitutional amendments if government and opposition parties could agree on a new formula in parliament.

Roh, as DJP front man, played a major role in setting out the ruling camp's conditions for compromise: Basically, direct presidential elections were out of the question but instead the government would press for a parliamentary system with a strong prime minister answerable to members of parliament.

The opposition dismissed the plan as a formula to prolong Chun's power and the constitutional talks collapsed.

Interviewed by South Korean journalists last month after his nomination was virtually secured, Roh was asked if he would try to court the opposition to take part after all in this year's presidential poll.

"If the opposition proposes amendments to specific clauses of the presidential election law," he said, "our position remains unchanged that we are prepared to negotiate."

# Sands of change: The causes of desertification

The following is part one in a two-part essay on desertification published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Part two will appear in tomorrow's issue of the Jordan Times.

**DESERTIFICATION** affects mainly the arid and semi-arid areas of the Earth; but though it may be accelerated by drought, it is rarely caused by it. On the contrary, its causes are man-made.

Desertification is a symptom of the disease of under-development. It results from the combination of social and economic factors, such as poverty and the inequitable distribution of resources, with environmental issues such as inappropriate land use systems and farming methods.

Desertification can be triggered by many factors, including over-grazing, deforestation, the expansion of intensive cash cropping onto marginal land more suitable for pastoralism, poor management of boreholes, over-stocking, and the settling of previously nomadic peoples.

Droughts accelerate desertification and amplify its effects.

The Sahel, for example, has undergone at least four major droughts in this century: during 1910-15, 1944-48, 1966-73 and, most recently, 1982-84. Though the severity of these droughts may have been comparable, their effects were not. The last two caused widespread loss of life—in both human and animal populations—mainly because conditions had already deteriorated to a potentially dangerous stage. The most recent drought caused food shortages in more than 29 African countries, and affected over 150 million people.

Desertification also tends to occur more commonly in semi-arid than in arid areas. Where rainfall is at least moderately reliable, the temptation to grow more is higher; and when ground

cover begins to disappear, rains may be heavy and frequent enough to do real damage to the exposed topsoil.

Desertified land can recover. Providing enough good soil remains in place, and providing that local climates have not been changed too radically, the land will recover slowly once the pressures to which it was subjected are removed. However, recovery can be so slow that the damage is, in effect, irreversible. In southern Tunisia, the tracks of World War II tanks and wheeled vehicles can still be seen in the sand, and vegetation has never returned to the area even though grazing pressure is very low and there have been several periods of above-average rainfall since the war.

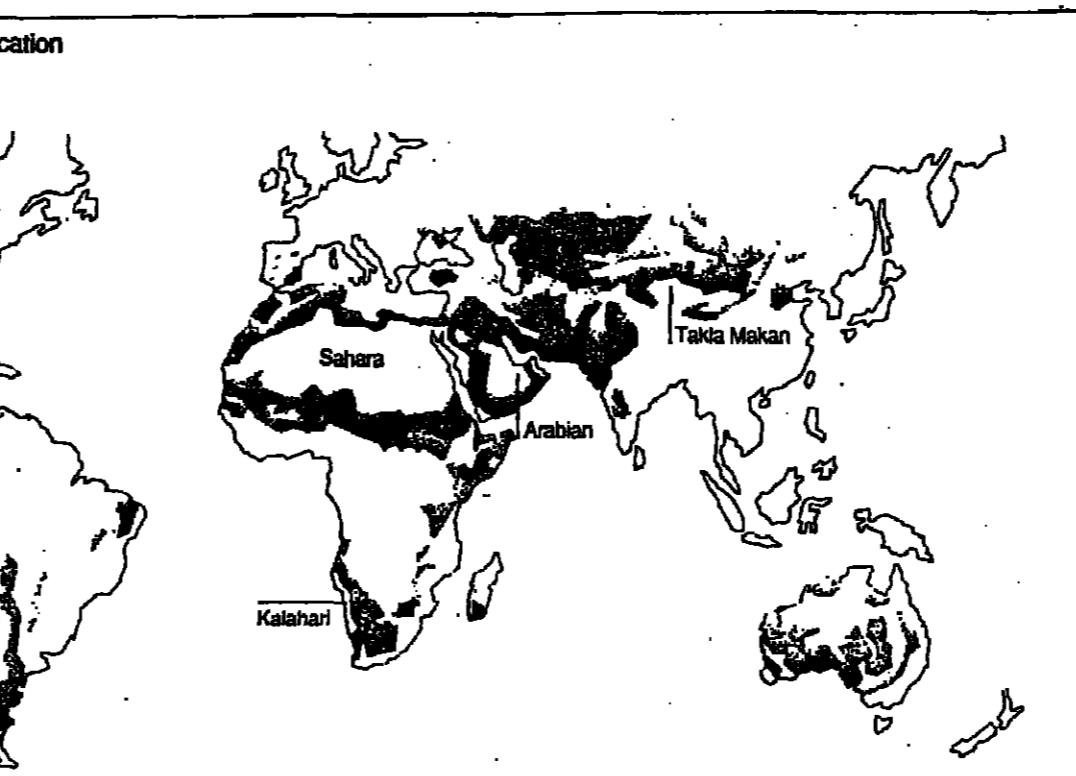
Desertification can appear in several guises. These include encroaching dunes and sand sheets; deteriorating croplands and rangelands; waterlogging and salinisation of irrigated land; destruction of trees and shrubs; and deterioration in either the quantity of ground and surface water.

Desertification commonly follows deforestation because water runs off the bared hills too quickly, carrying much of the top soil with it and causing major disturbances in the water balance. One result of this is that groundwater sources are now failing all along the foothills of the Himalayas.

Desertification threatens the world's dry lands, which constitute about 35 per cent of total land area. In spite of their name, the dry lands support some 850 million people and produce substantial quantities of meat, cereals, fibres and hides.

About three-quarters of the dry lands are already desertified to some degree. Much of Africa is severely affected, so too are many other areas: Much of South America, India, western Asia, Australia and even some of Mediterranean Europe and North America.

A World Map of Desertifica-



"The deserts are not invading from without; the land is deteriorating from within." *The Human Impact*

tion was prepared at the time of the United Nations Conference on Desertification (1977). It showed that 2 per cent of Europe, 19 per cent of America, 31 per cent of Asia, 34 per cent of Africa and 75 per cent of Australia were at risk from desertification. High-risk areas include parts of California, Chile, Argentina, north-east Brazil, large areas of Africa, Iraq, Pakistan, and parts of Turkey, Spain and north-west Australia.

Although desertification can start almost anywhere, fertile land near the edges of existing deserts is often at particularly high risk. Aerial surveys over the Sudan, for example, have revealed that the edge of the Sahara, as marked by the disappearance of sub-desert scrub and grassland, moved southwards about 100 km. between 1958 and 1975.

One of the commonest causes of desertification is now the salinisation of irrigated land. Nearly as much land is currently being lost to waterlogging and salinisation as is being newly irrigated.

Unless new irrigation projects pay careful attention to drainage, many will ultimately suffer from salinity, just as happened in many of the great civilisations of the past.

Desertification played a role in the downfall of the Sumerian, Babylonian, Harappan and Roman civilisations, and salinisation was involved wherever irrigation flourished. In what is modern day Iraq, irrigation has produced three periods of very rapid population increase; twice, in 1800 B.C. and 900 A.D., populations subsequently crashed as a result of waterlogging and salinisation.

## Who is affected...

One of the tragedies of desertification is that it affects mainly those who can least afford it. People living in low-income developing countries, particularly in areas that are already climatically, geographically and economically disadvantaged. Because agriculture is the principal source of jobs, income and GNP, the effects of desertification are often disastrous, leading to famine and political turmoil. Following the drought of the early 1970s, every government fell in the affected

Sahel countries.

## The numbers keep growing

The population at risk is very large. Some 850 million people live in the world's dry lands, and about 500 million of them are rural dwellers. More than half of them are already affected by at least moderate desertification and 135 million of them are affected by severe desertification.

The rangelands are the worst affected of dry-land areas, with 80 per cent of the total of 3,700 million hectares already suffering from desertification. However, the rangelands support a rural population of only about 66 million people.

By contrast, 260 million rural people live on rainfed cropland and 175 million on irrigated cropland. Some 60 per cent of rainfed cropland, and 30 per cent of irrigated cropland, is now at least moderately affected by desertification.

The numbers of people affected have grown rapidly since 1977, partly because populations themselves have grown, and partly because increasingly large areas of the sub-humid tropics (as distinct from the arid and semi-arid areas) are now becoming desertified.

The areas most at risk by the end of the century are likely to be the tropical rainfed croplands of sub-Saharan Africa, Andean South America, and parts of South Asia such as Nepal.

# Oxfam: Can big be beautiful?

By John Tanner

OXFORD, England — One of the great slogans of the ecology movement in the 1970s came from the title of a seminal book on development, E.F. Schumacher's "Small Is Beautiful". Western aid agencies, working in developing countries, took up that cry with vigour. But as those agencies have grown phenomenally in size in recent years, have they been able to keep their "good looks"?

A good case to look at is Oxfam, Britain's largest and probably most famous charity, which had modest beginnings as a group of concerned individuals who formed the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief in 1942, to send food aid to war-torn Greece. Oxfam has grown so much since then that it plans to leave its cramped headquarters next year, to move into larger, purpose-built offices.

Oxfam raised and spent over U.S.\$ 70 million last year and employs over 300 staff in Oxford. That is more than twice as many staff as in 1962, when Oxfam moved to its present accommodation. It has become a big business, operating a chain of nearly 800 fund-raising shops, run by volunteers throughout Britain. It has 31 field officers in the Third World and gives funds to more than 2,000 projects around the globe.

"There isn't even room to swing a collecting tin in our present offices," according to one Oxfam employee. The number of staff and volunteer helpers has grown so fast that the organisation is having to rent nine separate offices in the town.

The plans are to provide new "campus-style" premises, which will be able to house 500 staff and volunteers. In case anyone should accuse the organisation of extravagance over this, the Chairman of the charity's trustees, Chris Barber, says: "Over a period of 12 to 15 years, the new building will pay for itself from the savings we will make, primarily by not paying rents for some of our present offices."

At the moment, there is a huge accounts section to handle the donations that keep flooding in from the general public, as well as a publicity section and area desks to process funding applications from different parts of the Third World. There are also specialist units dealing with emergencies, health and such things as supplying water at short notice to refugee camps.

The new Oxfam premises will include a printing room, space for a computer to hold the names and addresses of donors, a strong room and a creche for employees' small children. The new site—like the existing one—is in an affluent suburb in the north of the city.

Yet however large Oxfam itself may have become, it still sees its role as funding effective small-scale projects in the developing world, sometimes countering the bad effects of bigger schemes. Last year, just under half of the agency's spending overseas went on emergency relief, while the rest was for long-term development work. About a quarter of the development projects are aimed at improving the environment as well as helping the poor.

In Brazil, for example, Oxfam helps to fund the Church Commission for Fisherpeople (CPP), which is campaigning to prevent

the pollution of rivers and coastlines and to stop over-fishing. More than half a million people in Brazil earn their living from fishing but Oxfam says that economic progress has passed them by or even worsened their lot.

"There are some fishermen who have absolutely no notion that there are basic laws to protect them," says a nun working in the north-eastern Brazilian state of Ceara. Chemical plants, paper mills and sugar distilleries which produce ethanol fuel for cars all pump vast quantities of effluent into lakes, rivers and coastal waters, reducing fish stocks. There are even reports of dwindling stocks in the huge Amazon River, because freezer ships are overfishing there.

Another problem is that colossal development projects, such as the Carajás iron-ore scheme, have pushed peasants—who used to combine farming with fishing—off their land and away from the coast. Oxfam is helping the CCP campaign with the fishing people to protect the environment. The CCP is also pressing for compensation for those whose livelihood has been affected by pollution.

In the state of Madhya Pradesh in India, Oxfam is helping villagers who are threatened by large-scale open-cast mining to fight for their rights. "Developments intended to provide power for the state's industrial complexes are quite literally taking the ground from under local people's feet," says Sam Clarke, a member of the Oxfam staff.

"One village we visited just a hundred metres from the coal face, with huge mechanical diggers scooping a 70-metre high cliff and the boom of blasting echoing around. Villagers are forced to move away from their villages because life becomes impossible there."

Oxfam is helping to finance a group called German Seva Sangha (GRASS), which is encouraging villagers to form self-help committees to press for their rights. "We shall die anyhow, so let us say that way!" said one man who was threatened with eviction.

In the province of Kordofan in Sudan, Oxfam is providing over US\$ 80,000 for the Sudanese government and a British volunteer aid worker to plant trees. Years of poor rainfall and growing population have increased pressure on the land. Fields are no longer left fallow and crop yields for sorghum and millet have fallen by over a half.

"By chopping down the giant arborescent trees in the area to make charcoal, farmers have, over the last ten years, been able to earn 200 per cent more by keeping the trees for their gum," an Oxfam worker says. The Sudan project involves planting copious of trees for firewood, fruit and fodder for animals. The trees also provide valuable shade and can improve the soil through nitrogen fixation.

These are just three examples quoted by Oxfam as evidence that the charity's rapid growth has not made it remote either from the poor in the developing world or from its supporters in Britain. — Earthscan feature.

# Viking wrecks give fresh insight into ancient seamanship

By Christopher Follett  
Reuter

ROSKILDE, Denmark — Sleek Viking ships once ruled the seas, disgorge fierce warriors to conquer England and occupy Iceland and Greenland.

Now, the skills of the men who built the vessels 1,000 years ago are winning rapt admiration from modern marine archaeologists.

The experts have gained new insights into boatbuilding and seamanship through restoring the wrecks of five 11th-century Viking ships, raised from the muddy depths of Roskilde Fjord in Denmark.

They are learning, too, from re-creating such vessels—and replica Viking ships will sail in a regatta this month to mark the 25th anniversary of the raising of the ships.

Four of the original ships have been restored and museum officials hope the last will be completed next year.

The wrecks are exhibited at the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, a cathedral city west of Copenhagen.

Those at the museum were built around 1,000 A.D. and historians believe that they were filled with stones and sunk to block the Fjord and prevent invaders from attacking Roskilde, then Denmark's capital and main port.

There are two warships, two trading vessels and a fishing boat.

"During the whole era of the sailing ship no better square-rigged ships were built than Viking ships," Jan Skamby Madsen, a curator at the museum, told Reuters.

"The Vikings produced dozens of different types of vessel at a high level of professionalism," he said.

"We have learnt a lot about the hull construction of ancient vessels, ship carpentry and the extraordinary function of the sails, which lifted Viking ships' bows up in the water and made them skate across the sea."

He added: "Viking ships were not dependent on wind from behind, they could tack against the wind."

One of the two merchant vessels, the Deep Sea Trader, is the biggest of its type ever found in Scandinavia, at 16.5 metres long and built of pine, probably in Norway.

The Trader was typical of ships used for the first crossings to Iceland, Greenland and Vinland, probably the name for North America. Two arrow marks on the upper planks indicate its stony past.

A second trading vessel, measuring 13 metres and fashioned from a single piece of oak, carried cargo in the Baltic and across the North Sea.

The 18 metre Man-of-War, with its characteristics long hull, is a type illustrated in France's Bayeux tapestry, which depicts the Norman conquest of England. Oak holes along the sides of the ship indicate the position of the 24 oarsmen.

The fishing boat, 12 metres long, had a mast and sail like the other ships but apparently no oars.

The finds are between 60 and 70 per cent intact with the exception of the 28 metre warship still to be reconstructed, of which only about a fifth is left.

Madsen said building replica ships has been just as exciting as preserving the originals. And by building replicas the archaeologists have learnt a great deal about the building and sailing of the originals.

# 'Black aluminium' for solar batteries

MOSCOW (AP)—A special coat for sun-light collectors, created at Kharkov Polytechnic Institute (the Ukraine), is called "black aluminium." It almost fully absorbs the sun rays, transferring the heat for warming up water or air. The new coat is about three times more efficient than the existing ones. One square metre of "black aluminium" makes it possible to heat 60 litres of water to 60 degrees centigrade, within an hour. The coat has a porous structure which keeps the

sun rays and absorbs their energy.

Scientists suggest using "black aluminium" for making a series of sun-light collectors for industrial enterprises, farms, apartments and summer recreation centres. Having a simple design they can work in different climatic zones, are durable and can be easily cleaned. The invention is to be introduced in the first place in the Ukraine and Georgia, where sunny days occur very often.

# Newly-weds spend honeymoon crossing Sahara

By Susan Elliott  
Reuter

LONDON — Michael Asher and Marianne, Peru, have just had a honeymoon shot on relaxation but long on originality—a 10-month trek with camels across the Sahara desert.

During their 21 days across the world's largest desert, the couple travelled on foot and camel from the Chingetti oasis, Mauritania, to the River Nile in Egypt through Mali, Niger, Chad and Sudan.

They almost died of thirst, were arrested by police and hounded by bayeing hyenas which encircled their camp at dusk.

With only a guide and three camels for company they once trekked for 12 days without seeing another person. When they argued they walked on—in complete silence.

Constantly they feared attacks from bandits.

"It was a hard honeymoon," concludes Peru, 30, "there were many moons and not much honey."

Often the intense 40-degree centigrade desert sun sparked futile arguments.

"Sometimes we didn't talk at all," said Peru, who dreamed of lemonade and fresh salad as they supplies of powdered milk, dried gazelle meat, sardines and rice bought from local markets.

"I had hallucinations of a fresh tomato," she recalls almost disbelief.

"And when the only available water tank, I had to convince myself it was the water from Rome."

The Italian general's daughter and the former member of Britain's elite Special Air Service (SAS) regiment, who married one day before departure, ended their journey last month.

They are now writing a book for an American publisher who gave £12,000 (\$19,500) toward the trip's £15,000 (\$24,500) cost.

Britain's respected Royal Geographic Society says it is the longest camel journey made by Europeans.

"Certainly we know of nothing which compares," said a spokesman.

The couple travelled like nomads, except for a compass, maps and flares, clothed in turbans and jellabiyas, loose hooded cloaks worn by Arab men.

"I did start with a couple of paperbacks," Asher, 34, admits, "but there wasn't time to read. Everyday we got up at sunrise, loaded the camels and trekked for 12 hours."

In Chad, the two were twice arrested for not having a travel permit and taken by police to the capital, N'Djamena, where the interior ministry issued one. They were later re-arrested: The word "camel" had been omitted from

the papers.

"Official took us to N'Djamena by truck where the director of security laughed and apologised for the mistake," Asher said.

Officialdom again struck at the end of the 4,500 mile route when Egyptian frontier police refused the exhausted couple entry from Sudan, explaining it was illegal to cross on foot.

"I said we would die if we went back. In the end they gave in," Asher told Reuters.

The expedition was inspired by an attempt in 1972-73 by author

and traveller Geoffrey Moorhouse to cross the Sahara from West to East without a motor vehicle. After 2,000 miles he gave up when three of his six camels died.

"It's tremendous someone has at last gone across by camel the full width," Moorhouse told

## Johnson breezes to another victory

GATESHEAD, England (R) — Canada's Ben Johnson, the fastest man in the world this year, produced an exhibition of power running to win a 100 metres race on Saturday in 10.42 seconds.

Although it was much slower than the 9.80 Johnson feels he is capable of achieving this season, it was enough to give him a comfortable victory in a triangular match against Britain and Poland.

Johnson's teammate Desai Williams finished second in 10.71 seconds, just ahead of Britain's Mike McFarlane who clocked 10.74.

Johnson, who is building up to the World Championships in Rome starting in August, has now won four 100 metres races since May 28 and set the season's fastest time of 10.02 in Calgary a week ago. His objective remains breaking Calvin Smith's world record of 9.93.

Britain's European champion Linford Christie confessed he was not too disappointed to miss the 100 metres in favour of the 200 where he clashed with another British European champion, Roger Black.

Black, stepping down from the 400 metres, made predictable late ground to finish second, ruffling Christie.

The latter, dismissive of his performance, said: "I'm still only half a sprinter because I'm a novice at 200 metres."

Commonwealth 5,000 metres champion Steve Ovett justified his £10,000 (\$16,500) per meeting price tag, when he opened his track season with a superb win in 3,000 metres.

Britain's athletics paymasters, who had originally offered the former Olympic champion just £1,000 (\$1,650) per race before he threatened to boycott their meetings, got their money's worth as Ovett outclassed a high calibre 3,000 metres field with familiar ease.

## Shriver, Savchenko win twice to reach Edgbaston tennis final

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — A slimmed down Pam Shriver won two matches to gain the final of the rain-affected Edgbaston Cup Women's Grasscourt Tennis Championships Saturday.

After whipping Natalie Tauziet of France 6-0, 6-1 in the quarter-final, the defending champion from the United States downed Etsuko Inoue of Japan 6-2, 6-4.

In Sunday's final, she will play Larissa Savchenko of the Soviet Union, who also had to play two matches because rain earlier in the week had forced officials to reschedule the tournament.

Savchenko outgunned South African Rosalyn Fairbank 7-5, 6-4 and then blitzed Eva Pfaff 6-3, 6-0 in the semifinal.

Shriver, the top seed, said after gaining the final that she had lost weight during her build up to the Wimbledon Championships, which start June 22.

"I am trying to be more disciplined in my whole lifestyle and I am in better shape and carrying fewer pounds," Shriver said.

"So when I knew I had to play two singles in a day, I didn't get worried about it."

Shriver explained the importance of playing in such pre-Wimbledon tournaments and wondered why more players didn't enter.

"This tournament, sooner or later, should attract the losers in the second week at (the French Open) in Paris. Some of the other top players should think about playing this event, and I think that would help me in my Wimbledon preparations," she said.

Referring to the Stella Artois Men's Grasscourt Tournament at Queen's Club, London, which is played simultaneously to the Edgbaston event, Shriver added:

"Look at Queen's. The top men are there. So why don't more of

the women come here?

"In previous years I have come out of this event needing one of two more tests so that's why I am playing at Eastbourne next week. Having a tournament to play during that week means you have not got time to think about Wimbledon and get upright about that," she said.

In earlier quarterfinals, Inoue upset seventh seeded Carling Bassett of Canada 6-2, 6-0 while Pfaff beat number 5 seed Elizabeth Smylie of Australia.

## France advances in rugby world cup semis

SYDNEY (R) — France gave

one of the greatest exhibitions of

rugby union of its distinguished

history when players upset

favourites Australia 30-24 in the

first World Cup semifinal at Con-

cord Oval Saturday.

Fortunes see-sawed until, with

injury time almost up, the sides

were tied 24-24 and extra time

seemed inevitable.

But the tireless French launched another counter-attack from

inside their half. Left wing Pat-

rice Lagisquet centred the ball and lock Alain Lorieux thundered up the centre to win it.

The ball went right, there was

another ruck. France spun it left

and suddenly it was Lagisquet again with fullback Serge Blanco outside.

Lagisquet veered infield, draw-

ing the defence, then fed Blanco

who sped to the corner for the

winning try. As his team mates

cavorted with delight, fullback

Didier Camberabero iced the

cake with a perfect touchline conversion.

France were a revelation against a side who have swept all before them for the last three

Their forwards were uniformly magnificent, the scrum pushed the huge Australian Pack back metres on several occasions and captain Daniel Dubroca took the game's sole tighthead.

"I expected us to win bigger," Soviet coach Victor Ulianich said through an interpreter. "The Americans were very strong opponents. They fought hard until the end."

American coach Joe Clough said: "I was very pleased with our

reaching the French quarter-finals and could go higher here. "Then if I win a few matches at Wimbledon, look out. I could be up in the top three by the end of the year."

Asked at what position in the rankings would he feel he had slipped too far, he replied: "If I dropped out of the top 12 or 15, I'd probably say 'that's enough'. I'd play exhibitions, some special events and a few tournaments."

"I'm feeling good physically. It's not a chore for me to get up in the morning and go out and practice. I've taken care of myself over the years. I'm married now, with two kids. That's kept me in the game. If I had stayed single, I'd probably have broken down physically a long time ago," he said.

Connors pointed out that his ranking had improved two places to seventh in the world for

second-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden 7-6, 7-6 on Friday.

In the other semifinal, top seed Boris Becker, preparing to bid for his third successive Wimbledon title, meets defending champion Tim Mayotte of the United States, who beat him in the quarter-finals here last year.



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## Japanese baseballer breaks Gehrig's record

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — Sachio Kinugasa of the Hiroshima Toyo Carp Saturday broke Lou Gehrig's record as the most durable man in baseball, chalking up his 2,131st consecutive game before hometown fans.

On Thursday, Kinugasa tied the record set by the New York Yankees player 48 years ago. Kinugasa received bouquets of flowers and congratulations from his current and former managers when he tied the mark.

This is the third time in history that a Japanese athlete has broken a significant U.S. major league record. In 1977, Sadaharu Oh beat Hank Aaron's record of 755 career home runs with a new record of 868, and on June 3, 1983, Yukata Fukumoto of the Hankyu Braves beat Lou Brock's record for career stolen bases at 938.

Kinugasa, a 40-year-old third baseman, has never missed a game since joining the Carp full-time on Oct. 19, 1970.

## Soviet boxers knock out Americans again

TAMPA, FLA. (R) — The Soviet Union continued their amateur boxing domination over the United States Friday night with a hard-fought 5-3 victory in the heavyweight invitational boxing tournament here.

Fighting before a crowd of 6,042, the Russians defeated the Americans for the tenth time in 11 heavyweight tournaments. It was the second victory in six days for the Soviet Union, who also defeated the Americans 5-3 last Saturday night in Virginia.

Other Soviet winners were light heavyweight Andrei Kurniavka, who won an easy 3-0 decision over American Harvey Richards after dropping him to the canvas late in the second round, was the outstanding boxer of the match.

Other Soviet winners were light heavyweight Nurmagomed Shanavazov, who won a 3-0 decision

over Phillip Jackson

heavyweight Usman Arasaliev, a 3-0 winner over Warren Williams

heavyweight Alexander Zolkin, who defeated Charlton Hollis 2-1

and super heavyweight Alexander Miroshnikenko, a 3-0 winner over Kilbert Pierce.

American winners were light heavyweight Michael Moorer,

who won a 2-1 decision over Stanislav Smirnov

light heavyweight Donald Stephens,

who beat Andrei Karavaev a 2-1

and heavyweight Tim Igo, who beat Vladimir Balay 2-1.

The three Porsches of South African Sarel van Der Merwe and Danes Franck Jelinski and Chris Nissen all retired by the 10th lap with engine failure.

Jaguar supplied the next three cars on the grid. After four wins in four world sportscar championship races, they are making a strong bid to win Le Mans for the first time in 30 years.

American Olindo Iacobelli, driving a Royale RP40, failed to start with the other 47 cars.

The WMP 87 of Frenchman Roger Dorchy also had to be wheeled into the pits after failing to start the two warm-up laps, but the problem was solved before the official race start.

Dutchman Jan Lammers

brought his Jaguar back to the pits after the first lap to change his tyres from wet to slicks and many other drivers followed him in the opening laps.

Stuck — whose team-mate Briton Derek Bell is chasing a fifth victory — Mass, Briton Martin Brundle in a Jaguar, Briton John Dunfries in a Mercedes and American Eddie Cheever in a Jaguar set the pace on the first lap.

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who beat Andrei Karavaev a 2-1

and heavyweight Tim Igo, who beat Vladimir Balay 2-1.

The three Porsches of South African Stefan van Der Merwe and Danes Franck Jelinski and Chris Nissen all retired by the 10th lap with engine failure.

Jaguar supplied the next three cars on the grid. After four wins in four world sportscar championship races, they are making a strong bid to win Le Mans for the first time in 30 years.

American Olindo Iacobelli, driving a Royale RP40, failed to start with the other 47 cars.

The WMP 87 of Frenchman Roger Dorchy also had to be wheeled into the pits after failing to start the two warm-up laps, but the problem was solved before the official race start.

Dutchman Jan Lammers

brought his Jaguar back to the pits after the first lap to change his tyres from wet to slicks and many other drivers followed him in the opening laps.

Stuck — whose team-mate Briton Derek Bell is chasing a fifth

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The three Porsches of South African Stefan van Der Merwe and Danes Franck Jelinski and Chris Nissen all retired by the 10th lap with engine failure.

American winners were light heavyweight Michael Moorer,

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**Economy**

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY JUNE 14, 1987 7

**U.S. trade improves**

**WASHINGTON (R)** — A lower U.S. trade deficit with the rest of the world during April has braced stock and currency markets and prompted Reagan administration claims that steady improvement is ahead.

The trade shortfall with the rest of the world narrowed for a second straight month in April, to \$3.3 billion from \$13.6 billion in March, as economists saw signs a falling U.S. dollar was finally starting to have an impact.

But the improvement failed to quell congressional calls for new U.S. laws to protect domestic industry and guard against unfair foreign trade practices.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Lloyd Bentsen, a Texas Democrat, said the April trade performance was disappointing since it included a fall in exports as well as imports. The trade report showed both imports and exports fell in April.

Exports fell 4.4 per cent to \$20.14 billion, while imports were down 3.6 per cent to \$34.46 billion in April, a trend foreshadowed by Japan's report Thursday that its trade surplus was declining.

"We're only fooling ourselves if we think we'll see a sustained healthy improvement in U.S. exports without doing something about foreign trade barriers," Mr. Bentsen said Friday.

He has led Senate efforts to use U.S. trade laws to force open foreign markets. Debate on a new trade bill is scheduled to begin this week.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige, commenting

shortly after the figures were released, predicted the corner has been turned in lowering the huge U.S. trade deficit that hit \$16.3 billion in 1986.

The Labour Department reported separately that wholesale prices were up only 0.3 per cent in May after a sharp 0.7 per cent rise in April that had triggered fears of a sharp rise in inflation at the retail level.

Wall Street responded enthusiastically as share prices closed strongly higher, with the Dow Jones index up more than 17 points. The dollar jumped to 143.93 Japanese yen in New York currency trading.

The Commerce Department also said businesses increased inventories only by 0.2 per cent in April after a 0.4 per cent March gain, suggesting corporations were slowing the pace of restocking after building up large inventories in the first quarter.

Mr. Allen Sinai, senior vice-president of Shearson Lehman Brothers in New York, said there were signs the benefits of the dollar devaluation are now occurring.

"Perhaps with the import numbers dropping, some substitution of U.S. goods for foreign goods has begun," Mr. Sinai said. He also said there was reason to believe a "slow turnaround" toward shrinking monthly trade deficits was now under way.

The U.S. trade deficit with Japan in April was little changed from March at \$4.95 billion, but deficits with other Asian nations rose.

**YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE**

from the Carroll Righter Institute

**FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 1987**

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Today is fine for settling career or business interests of a practical nature. Look for an upswing toward a more unique and progressive set of circumstances.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Go after your personal wishes now. You can enjoy the company of good friends in the evening.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can decide on the right philosophy of life that is best suited to your modus operandi.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) Be more affectionate with your mate. Take time to complete unfinished tasks.

Avoid one who has strange ideas.

**MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to Jul. 21) Have a practical discussion with an outside partner. Handle some civic matter.

**LEO** (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Plan the new week's work and get your hours nicely scheduled. Take some health treatments that will relax you.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Make arrangements for some entertainment you like. The evening is best for thinking about business matters.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get home conditions improved today. Keep the conversation light if you have guests into your home.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take a little trip with a friend in the morning, but be with your family in the evening.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Think about how to handle practical matters more wisely. Enjoy the company of charming personalities.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can gain a cherished wish, so go after it. Set up a more practical budget tonight.

**ARQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get your feet on the ground and you can handle practical affairs more efficiently. Be social tonight.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A wise friend can give you excellent advice today. Do something that will please a good pal in the evening.

**IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY** ... he, or she, will understand how to whittle imaginative ideas down to a practical working level and handle them successfully, so encourage this. Give as fine an education as you can afford. Teach this child the importance of controlling the temper.

**THE Daily Crossword**

by Harold Counts

ACROSS

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# Philippine police start mobilising civilians against Communist rebels

**MANILA (R)** — Top police officials said they were mobilising civilians to help them fight Communist rebels largely blamed for a rash of killings which Saturday claimed its 14th lawman victim in 10 days.

National police chief Brigadier-General Renato De Villa said he was going to put into practice President Corazon Aquino's call for the people to support the military and police in the 18-year-old Communist insurgency.

Brig. De Villa said Mrs. Aquino had laid the "moral basis" for an all-out campaign against the rebels.

"Sparrows," named for the swiftness of their attacks, have claimed responsibility for some of the 14 killing.

Former rebel leader Bernabe Buscayno, also known as Commander Dante, was ambushed

and two companions were killed in an attack he says was conducted by policemen or soldiers to revenge their fallen colleagues.

Mr. Buscayno, who now advocates electoral politics, was the founder of the New People's Army to which the "sparrows" belong.

One alleged "sparrow" was killed Friday in a gunbattle with police.

Brig. De Villa said the police would organise an information network that would reach into every Manila neighbourhood.

"To our mind the message of the president yesterday is very

important because that formed the basis of the framework for our efforts now to ask for and mobilise community support," he told a news conference.

Mrs. Aquino asked civilians in a speech during a celebration of national independence Friday to support the military and the police as she vowed to get tough and to "bring the war" to the rebels.

Rebel leaders said this week they would view the rise of vigilante groups in Manila as an escalation of political violence by the government and would respond accordingly.

Brigadier-General Alexander Aguirre, police chief for the Manila area, who was also at the conference, said he has started meeting mayors in Manila and suburban towns to discuss plans

on how to mobilise civilians to support the government.

Meanwhile a leading woman communist guerrilla was captured Friday night as she visited her baby born during a ceasefire earlier this year.

"Amazons," as women rebels are called here, are playing an increasingly important role in the 18-year-old insurgency against the Manila government.

Maria Concepcion Araneta Bocala, also known as Comrade Concha, was arrested on Panay Island in the central Philippines by the military on charges of rebellion and subversion, officers

said. American presidents treated Berlin as a sort of shrine where they were required to appear from time to time.

"To an equal degree ritual has become a public outpouring of personal feelings which, unfortunately, are dominated by unfriendship to our country and bare-faced anti-Sovietism," it said.

Pravda added that a security force of 10,000 protecting the site of the Reagan speech included police brought in from West Germany in violation of the four-power accord on Berlin.

The Soviet Union, which signed the post-war accord with United States, Britain and France, argues that West Berlin is not an integral part of West Germany and that Bonn is not authorised to take part in official functions there.

East Germany began building the Berlin Wall in August 1961.

The West says the wall's purpose was to stop the outflow of large numbers of East Germans who were leaving their country by crossing into West Berlin.

**Thousands protest in Seoul after arrest of 13 dissidents**

**SEOUL, South Korea (Agencies)** — Police hurled tear gas grenades and charged into thousands of people staging a sit-down strike Saturday in sympathy with students protesters who have held a Roman Catholic cathedral for four days.

Plainclothes police squads used their gloved fists and wielded protective shields like battering rams to drive off the people sitting in the streets around the Myeongdong Cathedral in downtown Seoul.

Witnesses said the crowd of demonstrators swelled rapidly from a few hundred to as many as 5,000.

The clash came as church officials attempted to work out a compromise with the government to end the cathedral siege and the

astrophysical research module Kvant in April.

Kvant is packed with high-technology equipment including several telescopes for observation of remote parts of the universe. The telescopes have added to the power demand.

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